

1      **Amendment to the Claims**

2      **In the Claims:**

3      Please cancel Claim 28.

4      Please amend Claims 1, 12, 27, 29-31, 32, and 43 as follows:

5      1. (Currently Amended) A scanner, comprising:

6                (a) a waveguide having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end being  
7      formed to have a nonlinear taper that decreases in size along a longitudinal axis of the waveguide,  
8      toward a distal tip of the waveguide;

9                (b) a scanning actuator disposed adjacent to the waveguide, said scanning actuator  
10     driving the waveguide to move vibrate the distal tip in a desired scanning motion; and

11                (c) a control circuit that is coupled to the scanning actuator, said control circuit  
12     being adapted to selectively energize the scanning actuator to move the distal tip of the waveguide so  
13     as to scan a field of view.

14      2. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the waveguide comprises  
15     at least two distinct sections of differing radii around the longitudinal axis of the waveguide, each  
16     section having a different resonance when driven by the scanning actuator, so that the two distinct  
17     sections are able to move as decoupled bodies when driven by the scanning actuator.

18      3. (Original) The scanner of Claim 2, wherein one of the two sections is driven to resonate  
19     about a first axis that is orthogonal to the longitudinal axis, and the other section is driven to resonate  
20     about a second axis that is substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis and to the first axis so that  
21     a scan rate of the waveguide about the first axis is different than about the second axis.

22      4. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein a hinge portion adjacent to the distal tip of the  
23     waveguide is reduced in cross-sectional size relative to proximal and distal portions of the waveguide  
24     that are immediately adjacent to the hinge portion.

25      5. (Original) The scanner of Claim 4, wherein the hinge portion is disposed along the  
26     longitudinal axis of the waveguide where a node is formed when the waveguide is driven into  
27     resonance by the scanning actuator, and wherein the waveguide is driven at least at a resonance of  
28     mode two.

29      6. (Original) The scanner of Claim 5, wherein the distal tip disposed beyond the hinge  
30     portion is substantially more rigid than the hinge portion.

1       7. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, further comprising a mass element that is disposed  
2 proximate the distal tip of the waveguide to reduce a positional displacement of the distal tip without  
3 substantially reducing an angular displacement of the distal tip when the distal end of the optical is  
4 driven by the scanning actuator.

5       8. (Original) The scanner of Claim 7, wherein the mass element comprises a lens that is  
6 coupled to the distal tip of the waveguide.

7       9. (Original) The scanner of Claim 8, wherein the lens is integrally formed from the  
8 waveguide.

9       10. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the scanning actuator causes the distal end of  
10 the waveguide to scan in a near resonant motion in at least a second order mode.

11      11. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the scanning actuator applies force to the  
12 distal end of the waveguide, causing the distal tip of the waveguide to describe one of:

- 13           (a) a circular motion;
- 14           (b) a helical motion;
- 15           (c) a Lissajous pattern;
- 16           (d) an arc;
- 17           (e) a whirl pattern;
- 18           (f) a rotating elongated propeller pattern; and
- 19           (g) a raster scanning pattern.

20      12. (Currently Amended) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the scanning actuator applies a  
21 force that is substantially orthogonal to the direction of actuator displacement, said force causing  
22 motion vibration of the distal tip of the waveguide.

23      13. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, further comprising a linear actuator that is coupled to  
24 the control circuit, said linear actuator periodically varying a force applied to the waveguide and  
25 directed generally along the longitudinal axis of the waveguide, said scanning actuator causing the  
26 distal end of the waveguide to describe an arc, said controller controlling the forces applied by the  
27 linear actuator and the scanning actuator so as to substantially flatten the arc.

28      14. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, further comprising a micro-lens formed on the distal  
29 tip of the waveguide.

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1        15. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the distal tip of the waveguide is caused to  
2 move in a pattern that scans a region disposed adjacent to the distal tip of the waveguide.

3        16. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the distal tip of the waveguide is driven in a  
4 pattern desired for one of:

5                (a) an image acquisition of a region disposed adjacent to the distal tip of the  
6 waveguide; and

7                (b) an image display on a region illuminated with light emitted from the distal tip  
8 of the waveguide.

9        17. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the scanning actuator comprises one of a  
10 bimorph piezoelectric actuator, a tube actuator, an electro-thermal actuator, an opto-thermal actuator,  
11 an electromagnetic actuator, a galvanometric actuator, a magnetostriction actuator, an ultrasonic  
12 actuator, an electrostriction actuator, and an electrostatic actuator.

13        18. (Original) The scanner of Claim 1, wherein the scanning actuator is configured to have a  
14 resonant frequency that is selected to be substantially equal to a mechanical resonant frequency of the  
15 waveguide about at least one axis of movement.

16        19. (Original) A method for creating a hinge in a light guide, comprising the steps of:

17                (a) providing a waveguide with a tapered portion having a cross-sectional size that  
18 decreases toward an end of the waveguide, along a longitudinal axis of the waveguide;

19                (b) heating a material comprising the waveguide at a point along the tapered  
20 portion where it is desired to produce the hinge sufficiently so that the material flows and is capable  
21 of being deformed, but remains viscous;

22                (c) substantially reducing the cross-sectional size of the tapered portion at the  
23 point where the hinge is desired after the material has been heated in step (b), to produce a  
24 necked-down section comprising the hinge; and

25                (d) enabling the taper portion of the waveguide to cool to an ambient temperature,  
26 said waveguide more readily bending at the hinge than at other portions of the tapered section when  
27 driven by an applied force.

28        20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of heating is carried out using a  
29 coherent light source to heat the material.

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1           21. (Original) A method for creating a hinge in a light guide, comprising the steps of:

- 2                 (a) providing a waveguide with a tapered portion having a cross-sectional size that  
3 decreases toward an end of the waveguide, along a longitudinal axis of the waveguide; and  
4                 (b) immersing the tapered portion of the waveguide into fluid having a plurality of  
5 layers, including an acid layer disposed between inert liquid layers, so that a point along the tapered  
6 portion where it is desired to produce the hinge is immersed in the acid layer, said acid layer etching  
7 the tapered portion of the waveguide, to produce a reduced diameter section comprising the hinge,  
8 said waveguide more readily bending at the hinge than at other portions of the tapered section when  
9 driven by an applied force.

10           22. (Original) A method for forming a micro-lens on a waveguide, comprising the steps of:

- 11                 (a) providing a waveguide having a tapered cross-sectional size toward a distal  
12 end along a longitudinal axis of the waveguide;  
13                 (b) applying a drop of an optical adhesive material adjacent to the distal end of the  
14 waveguide;  
15                 (c) rotating the waveguide while the waveguide is directed radially relative to a  
16 center of rotation, causing the optical adhesive material to form a micro-lens having a desired shape  
17 at the distal end of the waveguide; and  
18                 (d) causing the optical adhesive material to become set in the desired shape of the  
19 micro-lens.

20           23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of causing the optical adhesive  
21 material to become set comprises the step of curing said material with light of a predefined range of  
22 wavelengths.

23           24. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of causing the optical adhesive  
24 material to become set comprises the step of curing said material with heat applied thereto.

25           25. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of causing the optical adhesive  
26 material to become set is carried out while the waveguide is being rotated.

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1           26. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

- 2                 (a) directing light through the waveguide while it is rotating;  
3                 (b) monitoring characteristics of the light emanating from the micro-lens; and  
4                 (c) determining whether the micro-lens has achieved a desired form, based upon  
5 the characteristics of the light emanating from the micro-lens, to determine when to carry out the step  
6 of causing the optical adhesive material to become set.

7           27. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a micro-lens on a waveguide, comprising  
8 the steps of:

- 9                 (a) directing a beam of energy at a distal tip of the waveguide to heat a material  
10 comprising the distal tip;  
11                 (b) heating the distal tip of the waveguide with the beam of energy to melt the  
12 material;  
13                 (c) forming the micro-lens from a droplet of the material that has been melted; and  
14                 (d) applying a force to shape the micro-lens so as to achieve desired optical  
15 properties for the micro-lens; and  
16                 (e) allowing the droplet to cool.

17           28. (Cancelled)

18           29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28-27, wherein the force is a centrifugal  
19 force applied by rotating the waveguide while a longitudinal axis of the waveguide is generally  
20 radially aligned relative to a center of rotation.

21           30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28-27, wherein the force is applied along an  
22 axis of the waveguide using a driver that moves the waveguide along its longitudinal axis.

23           31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28-27, further comprising the step of  
24 monitoring light that has passed through the droplet to determine the optical properties of the  
25 micro-lens and to control the step of forming the droplet to achieve the desired optical properties for  
26 the micro-lens.

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1           32. (Currently Amended) A scanner, comprising:

2               (a) a waveguide having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end being  
3 formed to have a taper that decreases in size along a longitudinal axis of the waveguide, toward a  
4 distal tip of the waveguide;

5               (b) a micro-lens formed on the distal tip of the waveguide;

6               (c) a scanning actuator disposed adjacent to the distal end of the waveguide, said  
7 scanning actuator causing the distal tip of the waveguide to move vibrate in a desired scanning  
8 motion; and

9               (d) a control circuit that is coupled to the scanning actuator, said control circuit  
10 being adapted to selectively energize the scanning actuator to move the distal tip of the waveguide so  
11 as to scan a field of view.

12           33. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein the distal portion of the waveguide  
13 comprises at least two distinct sections of differing radii around the longitudinal axis of the  
14 waveguide, each section having a different resonance when driven by the scanning actuator, so that  
15 the two distinct sections are able to move as decoupled bodies when driven by the scanning actuator.

16           34. (Original) The scanner of Claim 33, wherein one of the two sections is driven to resonate  
17 about a first axis that is orthogonal to the longitudinal axis, and the other section is driven to resonate  
18 about a second axis that is substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis and to the first axis so that  
19 a scan rate of the waveguide about the first axis is different than about the second axis.

20           35. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein a hinge portion adjacent to the distal tip of  
21 the waveguide is reduced in cross-sectional size relative to portions of the waveguide that are  
22 immediately adjacent to opposite ends of the hinge portion.

23           36. (Original) The scanner of Claim 35, wherein the hinge portion is disposed along the  
24 longitudinal axis of the waveguide where a node is formed when the waveguide is driven into  
25 resonance by the scanning actuator, so that the distal tip disposed beyond the hinge portion is driven  
26 at least at a resonance of mode two.

27           37. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein the scanning actuator causes the distal end  
28 of the waveguide to move in a near resonant motion in at least a second order mode.

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1           38. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein the scanning actuator applies a force to the  
2 waveguide, causing the distal tip of the waveguide to describe one of:

- 3           (a) a circular motion;
- 4           (b) a helical motion;
- 5           (c) a Lissajous pattern;
- 6           (d) an arc;
- 7           (e) a whirl pattern;
- 8           (f) a rotating elongated propeller pattern; and
- 9           (g) a raster scanning pattern.

10          39. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, further comprising a linear actuator that is coupled  
11 to the control circuit, said linear actuator periodically varying a force applied to the waveguide and  
12 directed generally along the longitudinal axis of the waveguide, said scanning actuator causing the  
13 distal end of the waveguide to describe an arc, said controller controlling the forces applied by the  
14 linear actuator and the scanning actuator so as to substantially flatten the arc.

15          40. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein the distal tip of the waveguide is driven in a  
16 pattern that scans a region disposed adjacent to the distal tip of the waveguide.

17          41. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein the distal tip of the waveguide is driven in a  
18 pattern desired for one of:

- 19           (a) an image acquisition of a region disposed adjacent to the distal tip of the  
20 waveguide; and
- 21           (b) an image displayed on a region with light emitted from the distal tip of the  
22 waveguide.

23          42. (Original) The scanner of Claim 32, wherein the scanning actuator comprises one of a  
24 bimorph piezoelectric actuator, a tube actuator, an electro-thermal actuator, an opto-thermal actuator,  
25 an electromagnetic actuator, a galvanometric actuator, a magnetostriction actuator, an ultrasonic  
26 actuator, an electrostriction actuator, and an electrostatic actuator.

27          43. (Currently Amended) A scanner, comprising:

- 28           (a) an elongate structure having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end  
29 being formed to have a nonlinear taper that decreases in size along a longitudinal axis of the  
30 structure, toward a distal tip of the structure;

1                         (b)     a scanning actuator disposed adjacent to the structure, said scanning actuator  
2 driving the structure to ~~move~~ vibrate the distal tip in a desired scanning motion; and

3                         (c)     a controller that is coupled to the scanning actuator, said controller being  
4 adapted to selectively energize the scanning actuator to move the distal tip of the waveguide so as to  
5 scan the structure in the desired scanning motion.

6         44. (Original) The scanner of Claim 43, further comprising an active device disposed  
7 proximate the distal tip of the structure, said active device being caused to move with the distal tip of  
8 the structure in the desired scanning motion.

9         45. (Original) The scanner of Claim 44, wherein the active device comprises a light source.  
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